

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA STATE SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education 10/13/2014 www.sde.idaho.gov

Media contact: Brady W. Moore (208) 332-6818 bmoore@sde.idaho.gov

PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

COTTONWOOD, IDAHO – Prairie Elementary school has been officially recognized by the US Department of Education as one of this year's Blue Ribbon Schools. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna extends his congratulations to Prairie Elementary for being selected.

"I'm proud of all the teachers, administrators, parents, and students who work so hard to make Prairie Elementary a great place to learn," said Superintendent Luna. "Everyone there is leading by example and helping to set the standard of education in the Gem State."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

Prairie Elementary School has maintained an average of 95 percent of all students who have achieved a ranking of Proficient or Advanced on Idaho's statewide assessment in reading. In math, they've maintained an average of 93 percent Proficient or Advanced over the last five years. Prairie faces many of the same challenges as other schools across the Gem State with an average of 40-50 percent of students eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch.

Superintendent Luna will visit Prairie Elementary School on Friday, October 16th for an assembly and award announcement celebration. Press is welcome to attend. Prairie Elementary School is located at 907 Lewiston Street in Cottonwood. The assembly is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to the national recognition, Prairie Elementary School will also receive a \$20,000 award and an additional \$5,000 to use towards traveling expenses to the Recognition Ceremony in Washington D.C., on November 10-11, 2014.

For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Program contact Marcia Beckman at 208-332-6953 or mmbeckman@sde.idaho.gov

####